

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A yoke-and-shaft coupling structure comprising:
a yoke including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end face; and
a shaft to be inserted into inside of the shaft coupling portion through a U-shaped opening portion,

wherein the shaft coupling portion includes one of a fixed projecting portion and a recessed portion perpendicular to the axial direction for positioning the shaft in an axial direction in both directions along an axis of the shaft, and

the shaft includes one of a groove portion to which the projecting portion is to be inserted and a salient portion to be inserted into the recessed portion when the shaft is inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion.

2. (Withdrawn) A yoke-and-shaft coupling structure comprising:
a yoke including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end face;
a covering member, which is attached to the yoke, for covering the shaft coupling portion; and

a shaft to be inserted into inside of the shaft coupling portion through a U-shaped opening portion,

wherein the covering member includes a salient tongue, which projects inwardly from a periphery of the end face of the shaft coupling portion, to be used for positioning the shaft, and

the shaft includes a groove portion to which the salient tongue is to be inserted when the shaft is inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion.

3. (Withdrawn) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein the covering member further includes a press tongue for pressing the shaft inserted into the inside of the shaft coupling portion in a shaft insertion direction.

4. (Withdrawn) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure according to Claim 3, wherein the

shaft coupling portion has, on an inner face thereof, a rectangular recessed portion which can house the press tongue.

5. (Withdrawn) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure according to Claim 3, wherein the covering member includes a plurality of press tongues.

6. (Withdrawn) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure according to Claim 3, wherein the shaft has, at one end thereof, side faces parallel to each other and a top face composed of two inclined planes being inclined with respect to a plane which is parallel to an axis of the shaft and is perpendicular to the side faces, the inclined planes being joined to each other at an axial center of the top face, so that the shaft can be engaged with the press tongue.

7. (Withdrawn) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein the covering member is made of an elastic material.

8. (Withdrawn) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein a width of the groove portion in an axial direction is at least six times as large as a thickness of the salient tongue.

9. (Withdrawn) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure according to Claim 2, wherein the groove portion is deep enough to prevent the groove portion and the salient tongue from hitting against each other when the salient tongue is inserted into the groove portion.

10. (Currently amended) A yoke-and-shaft coupling structure comprising:
a yoke including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end portion having a U-shaped end face; and
a shaft having a longitudinal axis and being insertable into the U-shaped end portion of the yoke in a direction perpendicular to the shaft axis;
wherein the shaft coupling portion includes one of a fixed projecting portion and a

recessed ~~portion~~ slot for positioning the shaft in both directions along the axis of the shaft, the recessed slot having first and second spaced walls, and

the shaft includes one of a groove portion for receiving the projecting portion and a salient portion insertable into the recessed ~~portion~~ slot, and

wherein the fixed projecting portion in the groove portion or the salient portion in the recessed ~~portion~~ slot limits relative axial movement between the yoke and all parts of the shaft in the U-shaped end portion of the yoke, prevents the shaft from being removed from the yoke by an axial force and allows the shaft to be removed from the yoke by a force perpendicular to the axis of the shaft.

11. (Currently amended) A yoke-and-shaft coupling structure comprising:

a yoke including a shaft coupling portion which has a U-shaped end portion having a U-shaped end face;

a shaft having a longitudinal axis, a first part of the shaft positioned in the shaft coupling portion and a second part of the shaft projecting from the yoke through the U-shaped end face;

wherein the shaft coupling portion includes a planar wall having one of a fixed projecting portion projecting from said planar wall and a recessed ~~portion~~ slot recessed in said planar wall for positioning the shaft in both directions along the axis of the shaft,

the shaft includes one of a groove portion and a salient portion insertable into the recessed ~~portion~~ slot, and

either the fixed projecting portion cooperates with the groove portion or the salient portion cooperates with the recessed ~~portion~~ slot to both limit axial movement of the shaft into the yoke and to prevent the shaft from being axially-removed from the yoke by an axial force.

12. (Previously presented) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure of claim 11 wherein said shaft is shiftable between first and second spaced positions relative to said yoke.

13. (New) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure of claim 1 wherein said recessed portion comprises a slot having a centerline perpendicular to the axial direction.

14. (New) The yoke-and-shaft coupling structure of claim 1 wherein said recessed portion comprises a slot having first and second parallel sidewalls perpendicular to the axial direction.

15. (New) The yoke-and-shaft coupling arrangement of claim 10 wherein the slot is perpendicular to the axis of the shaft when the shaft is mounted in the yoke.

16. (New) The yoke-and-shaft coupling arrangement of claim 11 wherein either the fixed projecting portion cooperating with the groove portion or the salient portion cooperating with the recessed slot permits the shaft to be removed from the yoke by a force perpendicular to the axis of the shaft.

17. (New) The yoke-and-shaft coupling arrangement of claim 1 wherein said shaft coupling portion includes a planar wall and said recessed portion is recessed in said planar wall.

18. (New) The yoke-and-shaft coupling arrangement of claim 1 wherein said recessed portion comprises a slot in said planar wall.